

## REGISTRATION OF 'AU DEWEY' BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

'AU DEWEY' birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus* L.) (Reg. no. 7) was developed and released by the Alabama Agric. Exp. Stn., Auburn Univ. It was tested under the experimental designation AT-P and released in February 1985 as AU Dewey.

AU Dewey is a random mating population developed from open pollinated seed of 13 plants selected from two Yugoslavian plant introductions, PI 188556 and PI 251558. Selections were made in 1976 at the Auburn University Plant Breeding Unit, Tallahassee, AL. Selection criteria were rhizomatous nature, prostrate growth habit, and general vigor and adaptation. Breeder seed is third generation increase of the original bulk without further imposed selection for these or other characters.

Stand persistence in northern Alabama pastures is excellent. In a 3 yr grazing trial, AU Dewey constituted 20 and 35% of the sward when originally seeded with tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb.) or orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata* L.), respectively (3). This is partially due to AU Dewey's high natural reseeding ability and high seedling vigor under Southeastern conditions. Seed germination of AU Dewey is greater than that of 'Viking', 'Dawn', or 'Empire' at high temperatures and under simulated drought conditions (2).

AU Dewey has a high yield potential in the Southeast when grown in monoculture or in mixed swards with grass (1,2). In grazing trials, AU Dewey-grass pastures gave high average daily gains and good beef production per ha. Beef gains per ha on AU Dewey trefoil-'Kentucky 31' tall fescue (with *Acremonium coenophialum* Morgan-Jones and Gams

infection) pastures without N fertilization were 85% of that of the tall fescue alone when fertilized with 168 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> N.

AU Dewey is expected to be best adapted to areas such as northern Alabama and Georgia. It is not adapted to the Lower South where warm season perennial grass competition is severe. Although AU Dewey has survived short periods of temperatures below -18°C in Alabama, it has not survived winters in the Central and North Central USA except under good snow cover.

Breeder seed of AU Dewey is produced and maintained by the Alabama Agric. Exp. Stn., Auburn Univ. Foundation seed will be produced by the Alabama Crop Improvement Association. Certified seed of AU Dewey will be produced and marketed on an exclusive basis by International Seeds, Halsey, OR, in accordance with the rules and regulations specified by the Alabama Crop Improvement Association.

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### References and Notes

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2. —, R.L. Haaland, R.R. Harris, and J.A. McGuire. 1982. Birdsfoot trefoil in Alabama. Alabama Agric. Exp. Stn., Auburn Univ. Bull. 537.
3. —, R.R. Harris, R.L. Haaland, J.A. McGuire, W.B. Webster, and V.H. Calvert II. 1985. Birdsfoot trefoil-grass pasture for steers in the Tennessee Valley. Alabama Agric. Exp. Stn., Auburn Univ. Bull. 567.
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